

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 17 and 20 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 8, 17 and 20 can be found at least at Fig. 7, for example. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Decker (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,549) in view of Castelli (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,221) and claims 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Decker and Castelli in view of Official Notice. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Decker and Castelli, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least obtaining a degree of color misregistration based on known dimensions of the registration patch and an amount of color shift, that is represented by a ΔE color difference, between the detected color value and the combined color value, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claims 8 and 20.

Referring to Decker, there is disclosed a method for detecting print misregistration "by measuring density values using an optical densometer." See col. 2, lines 28-30 of the specification. The optical density of a second repeating pattern is subtracted from the optical density of a first repeating pattern to obtain a density difference for each incremental amount of misregistration. See col. 3, lines 4-9. Decker further discloses that "the misregistration is equal to a constant times the density difference" (misregistration = $C_1 * (\text{density difference})$, where C_1 is a constant)). See col. 8, lines 31-33.

As is clear from the above description, Decker only discloses calculating a misregistration that is merely a linear scaling of a density difference. Specifically, the densometer device used to obtain misregistration, as taught by Decker, cannot be used to measure color differences. It is notoriously well known in the art that a densometer can only

measure the degree of darkness, or optical density, of process colors. Thus, Applicant's assert that a densometer is a "color blind" device. Accordingly, Decker does not, and cannot be modified to, disclose obtaining a degree of color misregistration based on an amount of color shift, that is represented by a ΔE color difference.

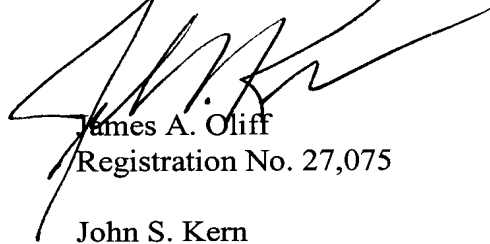
Castelli does not make up for the above-noted deficiencies of Decker. Specifically, Castelli does not disclose or suggest obtaining a degree of color misregistration based on known dimensions of the registration patch and an amount of color shift, that is represented by a ΔE color difference, between the detected color value and the combined color value, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claims 8 and 20.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Decker and Castelli, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-20 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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